

Economic Values Associated with Fishery Enhancement

Earl Ekstrand and Jon Platt

FY 1999 - FY 2000

Given the number of current and future Reclamation actions aimed at enhancing fisheries (e.g., dam re-operation and acquisition of additional water supply), a consistent framework is needed to evaluate economic effects among alternatives. Economic values can be assigned to recreational use as well as preservation of the fishery resource. Lack of data and models typically prevents adequate quantification of the impact of dam operation changes (e.g., reservoir water levels and instream flows).

This research proposes to review a range of analytical options for measuring changes in economic values. To the extent possible, given budget constraints, both new and existing data will be pursued in an attempt to estimate statistical models to measure changes in both recreation use and value within case studies.

Goal: Provide a framework for measuring changes in recreation value due to changing dam operations and water supplies.

Objectives:

1. Provide a series of acceptable approaches for estimating economic values
2. Identify strengths and weaknesses by approach
3. Identify data needs by approach
4. Note analytical elements which are non-economic in nature (e.g., biologic and hydrologic) and would therefore require cooperative efforts with other disciplines

We continue to work with the Forest Service in Boise on formatting data for analysis, as well as acquiring new data currently being collected on the Snake River.

In addition, we are continuing our efforts with New Mexico State University toward modeling economic values for recreation at various sites related to Reclamation efforts.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Pacific Northwest Regional Office
U.S. Forest Service, Boise, Idaho
New Mexico State University, Economics Group

Future publications on valuing recreation use at specific sites and developed models for data collection are anticipated.